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S.F. CHRONICLE — Nov. 15, 1994

Kennedy Assassination Makes Film Registry

Associated Press

New York

The most analyzed home movie of all time — Abraham Zapruder's footage of President Kennedy's assassination — joined classics of comedy and suspense yesterday in the Library of Congress' registry of American film.

The 486 frames constitute the first amateur 8-millimeter film placed in the registry.

The grainy, color film, which long has been key evidence in the various investigations into the assassination, was shot in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

It was among 25 films added to the registry. Others include "E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial" (1982); "The African Queen," with Humphrey Bogart's 1951 Oscar-winning performance opposite Katharine Hepburn; and the 1944 "Meet Me in St. Louis," in which Judy Garland sings on a trolley.

The registry was established in 1988 to preserve film deemed culturally, historically or esthetically important. James H. Billington, the librarian of Congress, announced the new titles, bringing the list to 150 movies.

Two classics in mid-century paranoia were also added: "The Manchurian Candidate" of 1962 and the first "Invasion of the Body Snatchers" in 1956. Ugliness in urban America is depicted by way of "Scarface" in 1932, "Midnight Cowboy" in 1969 and "Taxi Driver" in 1976.